[29th January 1931

(c) whether finger prints were taken from them before trial under Act 33 of 1920, and if so, where and when ;

(d) whether finger prints were again sought to be taken from them after conviction, and if so, where;

(e) under whose orders such finger prints were sought to be taken ;

(f) whether they were convicted of refusing to give finger prints and if so, by what Magistrate ;

(g) whether the Inspector-General of Police issued any order regarding the prosecution of such convicted prisoners ; and

(h) whether such orders of the Inspector-General were sanctioned by the Government and, if so, when ?

A.—(a) *to* (c) If the hon. Member will specify a particular date in the year, attempt will be made to obtain the information.

(d) *to* (h) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to questions Nos. 105 and 187-B. The thirty-one convicts who refused to allow their finger prints to be taken were convicted by the Stationary Sub-Magistrate, Chirakal.

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether Government are consulted before orders are passed by the magistrates ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Government are not consulted and it is left entirely to the discretion of the magistrates."

Number of prisoners released from the Cannanore Jail in 1929 *on medical grounds.*

• 197-E Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the number of civil prisoners who have been released from the Cannanore Central Jail on medical recommendation in 1929 and this year ?

A.—One in each year.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" Has the Government made any solemn resolution to release only one prisoner every year irrespective of the merits of individual cases ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I am afraid that my hon. Friend has not read either the question or the answer. The question is ' Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the number of civil prisoners who have been released from the Cannanore Central Jail on medical recommendation in 1929 and this year ? ' The answer to that is ' One in each year.' That means that on medical grounds one civil prisoner was released each year."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" I ask this question because the answer clearly says ' One in each year.' I want to know whether Government has made any solemn resolution to release one every year irrespective of the merits of individual cases ? "

29th January 1931]

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"I am sorry that the question does not arise from the answer given."

Alleged use of the ice chest in the office of the Superintendent, Madras Penitentiary.

*198 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the ice chest purchased for use in the hospital of the Madras Penitentiary is not kept in the hospital but kept in the Superintendent's office; and

(*b*) if so, why and for what use it is kept in the office of the Superintendent?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no information.

Canals

N. P. Ayyar's scheme for improvements to the Buckingham Canal.

*199 Q.—Mr. T. Sundara Rao Nayudu : With reference to question No. 42 answered at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 23rd August 1927, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. N. P. Ayyar submitted an alternative scheme, whereby he undertook to invest all the capital required to improve the Buckingham Canal and to make it navigable all through the year, if the Government was prepared to give him a monopoly for his launch service in the said canal and to pay him for a period of twelve years the average annual expenses incurred by the Government for the past five years as per figures given by the Revenue Member in the reply to the question No. 42 on 23rd August 1927; and

(*b*) what action the Government have taken thereon?

A.—(*a*) Yes. His proposals provided for a payment to him of Rs. 2,96,203 per annum for a period of thirteen years and Rs. 50,000 per annum thereafter.

(*b*) The Government decided that they could not entertain Mr. N. P. Ayyar's proposals.

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—"May I know whether Government have any proposal to make this Buckingham Canal pay its way?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"There is no such proposal before the Government now."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—"May I know whether the Government propose to appoint a committee to investigate the possibilities of making this canal remunerative?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"No, Sir."